(b) ITER is an ambitious collaborative international project to develop fusion enegy technology further with European Union, USA, Japan and Russia as partners. China and South Korea have also joined the project recently.

(c) It is premature at this stage to decide the financial implications of India joining the project.

Mineral production in the country

77. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently approved Rs. 4000 crores of FDI in the mining sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is not a fact that due to obsolete technology by Indian minerals the country has been deficient in high value minerals; and

(d) the total mineral production in the country during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In consultation with the Ministry of Mines, the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), has so far aproved 73 proposals of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the mining sector, envisaging an investment of about Rs. 4,044 crores.

(c) India has similar geological setting and metallogenetic history of mineral rich Australia, South Africa and Antarctica. However, due to lack of advanced state-of-the-art technology and low investment for detailed exploration, deep-seated high value minerals have not yet been fully discovered.

(d) The value of total mineral production of the country (excluding atomic minerals) during the last three years is as follows:—

Year	2001-2002	2002-2003 (Provisional)	2003-2004 (Provisional)
Value (*in Rs. crores*)	60,832	63,540	66,303